

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of producing super-micro powder of a pure metal ~~[[by]] comprising~~ heating a starting material forming metal chloride vapor, the starting material containing ~~[[a]] metal chloride and elemental metal of the metal contained in the metal chloride,~~ and reducing the ~~resulting metal chloride steam vapor~~ with ~~[[a]] hydrogen gas to produce the super-micro powder of a pure metal, characterized in that an elemental metal constituting the metal chloride is mixed with the starting material containing the metal chloride.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A method of producing super-micro powder of a pure metal according to claim 1, wherein ~~[[as]] the metal chloride is used a metal chloride having~~ has a valence larger among metal chlorides having of at least two or more valence.

3. (Currently Amended) A method of producing super-micro powder of a pure metal according to claim 1, wherein the metal chloride is at least one of cupric chloride ~~(CuCl₂) or ferric chloride (FeCl₃)~~ CuCl₂, FeCl₃ and NiCl₂.

4. (Currently Amended) A method of producing super-micro powder of an alloy ~~[[by]] comprising~~ heating a starting material forming metal chloride vapor, the starting material containing ~~[[a]] metal chloride and elemental metal as alloying components;~~ and reducing the ~~resulting metal chloride steam vapor~~ with hydrogen gas to form the super-micro powder of an alloy, characterized in that a metal chloride is used as one to (number

of all alloying components—1) alloying components in the starting material and an elemental metal is used as the other alloying component.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of producing super-micro powder of an alloy according to claim 4, wherein the metal chloride is ~~euprie chloride (CuCl_2), cuprous chloride (CuCl), ferric chloride (FeCl_3), ferrous chloride (FeCl_2), nickel chloride (NiCl_2), cobalt chloride (CoCl_2) or stannous chloride (SnCl_2)~~ at least one of CuCl_2 , CuCl , FeCl_3 , FeCl_2 , NiCl_2 , CoCl_2 and SnCl_2 .

6. (Currently Amended) A method of producing super-micro powder of an alloy according to claim 4, wherein the elemental metal is ~~copper (Cu), iron (Fe), nickel (Ni), cobalt (Co), silver (Ag), tungsten (W), molybdenum (Mo), niobium (Nb), tantalum (Ta), chromium (Cr), vanadium (V), germanium (Ge) or antimony (Sb)~~ at least one of Cu , Fe , Ni , Co , Ag , W , Mo , Nb , Ta , Cr , V , Ge and Sb .

7. (Currently Amended) A method of producing super-micro powder of a pure metal according to claim 2, wherein the metal chloride is at least one of ~~euprie chloride (CuCl_2) or ferric chloride (FeCl_3)~~ CuCl_2 , FeCl_3 and NiCl_2 .

8. (Currently Amended) A method of producing super-micro powder of an alloy according to claim 5, wherein the elemental metal is ~~copper (Cu), iron (Fe), nickel (Ni), cobalt (Co), silver (Ag), tungsten (W), molybdenum (Mo), niobium (Nb), tantalum (Ta), chromium (Cr), vanadium (V), germanium (Ge) or antimony (Sb)~~ at least one of Cu , Fe , Ni , Co , Ag , W , Mo , Nb , Ta , Cr , V , Ge and Sb .

9. (New) A method of producing super-micro powder of a pure metal according to claim 1, wherein the metal chloride and the elemental metal are mixed.